

Minutes
Mt Lebanon Historic Preservation Board
Monday, October 19, 2015, 5 p.m.
Mt Lebanon Municipal Building

Attendance: Joel Cluskey, chair; Michelle Zmijanac, vice chair; Jonathan Hill, Anna Siefken, Yvette Yescas, Ben Wetmore, Jim Martin

CALL TO ORDER: Joel Cluskey called meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.

CITIZENS COMMENTS There were no citizen comments.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES The September minutes were unanimously approved with two corrections.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Virginia Manor Historic District

Susan Morgans, Joel Cluskey and Yvette Yescas attended the Commission discussion session at which design guidelines for Virginia Manor were discussed. The Commission supports the guidelines but agreed that they did want to pass an ordinance making the guidelines mandatory. The Commission expressed interested in promoting the guidelines for broader use throughout the community and perhaps looking into preservation zoning. The design guidelines project came in \$600 plus under budget. That money will be carried over to 2016 to use for educating Virginia Manor residents (and others) about the guidelines and promoting their use. We will add promotion of guidelines to regular agenda.

Renovation Resources: Jonathan Hill suggests reaching out to people who can promote and explain the voluntary guidelines, such as zoning officers and realtors. He also suggested creating a Q & A and revisiting some articles that have appeared in the past in Mt. Lebanon Magazine. Jonathan will contact Susan to discuss.

Brick Street Retention: Yvette Yescas said that consultant hired by PennDOT to prepare a mitigation plan as the result of the removal of bricks on Castle Shannon Boulevard will have a draft of a communitywide plan for brick street maintenance and retention by

December 2. The Board will discuss the plan the meeting that follows, and then Yvette and Susan will provide PennDOT with feedback, Susan will distribute the plan to the board when she receives it. Please send comments to Yvette and Susan.

Historic District Signage: The board unanimously approved a concept design for the National Register plaques that the historical society will sell to raise money for its new headquarters. All agreed that although cast aluminum will be more expensive than cast resin, it also is more desirable. Ben Wetmore will get a firm price quote from Franklin, the fabricator, and then the historical society can move forward. Thanks to Ben for his hard work on this project.

Jonathan Hill continues to research how other cities and communities have dealt with historic identification signage.

Workshops/Realtor Coffee: Michelle Zmijanac will represent the board at the public information office's real estate coffee at 9 am, Thursday, October 28. She reviewed the agenda for the event, which will feature a number of speakers on various municipal and school district topics. The event has been promoted through all the major real estate offices. The board suggested points that Michelle could make about historic preservation during her presentation. Her focus will be the National Register District.

OITHER BUSINESS:

Unitarian Church Project: Jim, Jonathan and Joel toured the facility with two members of the congregation. The church needs more space; they like their location, and they have commissioned a design that can accommodate their needs while still retaining the English cottage feel and respecting the scale of the neighborhood. They were receptive to the board's suggestions, and the board members were pleased to have the opportunity to work with the church. The church plans to begin construction in April.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 6:00. Next meeting is Monday, November 16, at 5 p.m. in the municipal building.